

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claim 4, line 1, delete "-3";

Claim 7, line 1, delete "claims 1 or 3-6" and insert  
--claim 1--;

Claim 8, line 1, delete "-7";

Claim 9, line 1, delete "claims 1-8" and insert  
--claim 1--;

Claim 10, line 1, delete "claims 1-9" and insert  
--claim 1--;

Claim 11, line 1, delete "claims 1-10" and insert  
--claim 1--;

Claim 12, line 1, delete "claims 1-11" and insert  
--claim 1--; and

Claim 13, line 1, delete "claims 1-12" and insert  
--claim 1--.

Please add the following new claims 14 - 16:

- A' 1 14. Process according to claim 2, wherein the sulfur content of  
2 the feedstock is less than 10 ppm.

1 15. Process according to claim 3, wherein the sulfur content of  
2 the feedstock is less than 10 ppm.

1 16. Process according to claim 3, wherein:

2 the precious metal catalyst is a supported catalyst;

3 the support of the precious metal catalyst is selected from  
4 silica, alumina, silica-alumina, titania, zirconia, zeolites,  
5 carbon, clay materials and combinations thereof;

6 the precious metal content of the catalyst is between 0.01  
7 and 5.0 wt.%, calculated on the weight of the catalyst;

8 the nickel catalyst is Raney nickel or a supported nickel  
9 catalyst containing from 0.5 to 99 wt.% nickel;

10 the amount of precious metal catalyst ranges from 1 to 30  
11 vol.% of the total system;

12 the weight ratio of nickel catalyst to metal oxide is  
13 between 20:1 and 1:20;

14 the feedstock is selected from petroleum distillates,  
15 resins and solvents.